

# A Global Approach to the Regulation of Agricultural Pesticides

## A Vision for the Future



### Background

Every year new pesticides are introduced to the market across OECD countries. Before these products can be made available they must be rigorously tested and approved by governments to ensure that they meet current health and safety standards. In the past, this process of pesticide approval and registration was carried out by each country individually and was cumbersome.

Since 1992, the OECD Pesticide Programme has worked to *streamline* this process by helping governments **work together** to evaluate the risks of individual pesticides more quickly and thoroughly. The Programme brings together experts from OECD countries to combine and share their knowledge, methods and findings. As a result, governments are able to approve safer products faster and remove more hazardous ones from the market.



## The Vision <sup>1</sup>

Building on progress achieved, OECD has adopted the vision that by the end of 2014, through the co-operation of OECD member countries working with relevant stakeholders–

- the high level of protection afforded to human health, animals and the environment is further enhanced and the levels of risk arising for man, animals and the environment as a consequence of the marketing and use of agricultural pesticides are minimized to the extent possible,
- the regulatory system for agricultural pesticides will have been harmonized to the extent that monographs for pesticides prepared in the OECD format on a national or regional basis (*e.g.* EU or NAFTA) can be used to support independent risk assessments and independent regulatory decisions made in other regions or countries,



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<sup>1</sup> OECD's vision relates to the regulation of agricultural pesticides. An OECD vision statement on the management of biocidal products may be developed once more experience in international co-operation in their management has been gained

- the preparation of data submissions (dossiers) for active substances and for end-use products is co-ordinated globally by industry, to the extent possible, such that opportunities are maximised for work-sharing between the regulatory authorities of OECD member countries,
- work-sharing arrangements between regulatory authorities in OECD countries take place as a matter of routine such that data submissions (dossiers) prepared by industry in the OECD format are accepted in all OECD countries and made available and used globally, notwithstanding the need for supplementary data submissions to address particular local conditions and issues, or country specific legal requirements,
- the generation for each active substance of a single monograph, serving the needs of the regulatory authorities in all OECD countries has become commonplace <sup>2</sup>, notwithstanding the need for separate independent risk assessments and separate independent regulatory decisions in each jurisdiction,




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<sup>2</sup> It is recognized that for existing active substances, even if review schedules become broadly aligned, situations will arise requiring the preparation of monographs for use in just one country or region. Similarly commercial considerations may dictate that particular new active substances are developed on a regional rather than a global basis.

and in relation to other inter-governmental organizations -

- countries will ensure that the benefits gained through work-sharing and the experiences gained through the work of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides are taken into other relevant international fora (*e.g.* JMPR), thereby facilitating developing countries in the efficient management of their pesticide regulatory systems



## Achievements

Specific work completed and achievements realized to facilitate work sharing across governments include:

- ❑ A database listing schedules for regulatory reviews of pesticides so that a government planning a review can identify if other governments have also reviewed a substance, or will review it, which facilitates the sharing of assessment reports. To date review schedules for more than 1300 active ingredients have been posted on this public database <http://www.oecd.org>.
- ❑ A detailed and uniform format (or “monograph”) used by all OECD governments in writing pesticide assessment reports see

<http://www.oecd.org/document/>. This improves a report's clarity and comprehensiveness and makes it easier for countries to use each other's reports.

- ❑ A detailed format (or “dossier”) for pesticide producers to use when submitting reports of the tests done to identify pesticide risks see <http://www.oecd.org/document/>. This helps reduce the industry's workload and provides a uniform standard of reports.

By promoting *work-sharing*, the OECD Pesticide Programme helps governments re-assure their public that they taking a leading role in protecting human health and the environment and that they are working towards the goal of sustainable development

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*All OECD publications concerning registration and risk reduction for plant protection products are available, free of charge, at <http://www.oecd.org>.*